



Urmston Urban District Council

# Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

for the year

1953

Including the Report of the  
Chief Sanitary Inspector



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# Urmston Urban District Council

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**Chairman of the Council, 1953-54:**

**COUNCILLOR Mrs. R. V. ROYLE-HIGGINSON, J.P.**

**HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953-54:**

*Chairman:* Councillor H. HOWSDON.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor Mrs. A. M. WILKINSON.

Councillor L. P. BROOKES.

„ H. MAUNDERS.

„ J. F. RAVENSCROFT.

„ Mrs. R. V. ROYLE-HIGGINSON, J.P.

„ Mrs. L. M. TOMLINSON, J.P.

„ W. WROE, J.P.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF:**

*Medical Officer of Health:*

E. H. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

\*W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

\*F. G. V. RUMSEY, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

\*W. S. ASTALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

\*W. F. MALING, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

\*Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

*Chief Clerk:*

G. W. BLAKE, A.C.I.S., A.R.I.P.H.

*Clerks:*

E. MARGERISON.

T. L. COOKE.

(Mrs.) D. M. KIRBY.





## SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The urban district comprises the three townships of Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme in the County Palatine of Lancaster and is situated some six miles south-west of the City and County Borough of Manchester. In shape the district is an irregular triangle formed into an isthmus by the natural boundaries of the River Mersey along the south and the Manchester Ship Canal (which is the canalised River Irwell) on the west and north taking the extreme points. The district measures approximately 3·28 miles from north to south and 3·37 miles from east to west, and covers an area of 4,799 acres of land. In contour there is little variation, the average level being 65 feet above the Ordnance datum.

The population at the 1931 Census was 9,284 persons and at the 1951 Census 39,233. The estimated population mid-1953 as computed by the Registrar General was 39,040. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year, according to the rate books, was 12,496, rateable value £334,036 and the sum represented by a penny rate £1,330.

Predominately residential in character, the district has developed rapidly in recent years. In the township of Urmston is the greatest concentration of older houses, large and small, as well as substantial modern residential property, and the main shopping centre.

The townships of Flixton and Davyhulme are mainly comprised of modern residential estates, pleasantly interspersed with abundant open spaces and two golf courses. The most northerly part of Davyhulme comprises more than half of Trafford Park and except for a few isolated manufactories the industries of the district are all concentrated in this area in which are situated some eighty factories and employing between them about 16,000 workpeople. The industries in Trafford Park include storage and distribution of petroleum, rubber proofing, oil refining, food products, electrical and mechanical engineering, manufacture of asbestos, steel, wire, chemicals, furniture, textile machinery, soap and detergents, also cold stores, warehouses and electricity generating station.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**LIVE BIRTHS.**—Births registered were 606 legitimate, 15 illegitimate, total 621, representing a birth rate of 15·9 per thousand of the estimated population. The birth rate shows an increase compared with 1952 when the rate was 13·7.

**STILLBIRTHS.**—The number registered was 11 which is equal to a rate of 17 per 1,000 total births.

The total number of live births and stillbirths for the past five years is shown in the following table:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Live Births.</i>	<i>Illegitimate Births.</i>	<i>Stillbirths.</i>
<b>1953</b> .....	<b>621</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
1952 .....	532	13	13
1951 .....	603	14	14
1950 .....	623	15	15
1949 .....	673	15	15

**GENERAL DEATH RATE.**—The total number of deaths during the year was 363 representing a crude death rate of 9·3 per thousand of the estimated population, the lowest recorded since 1938.

A detailed analysis of the causes of death is shown in the table on page 6.

The following table gives particulars of deaths during the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population.</i>
<b>1953</b> .....	<b>363</b>	<b>9·3</b>
1952 .....	407	10·5
1951 .....	445	11·5
1950 .....	401	10·3
1949 .....	422	10·8

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 9 which represents a rate of 14 per 1,000 live births, a decrease compared with 1952, when the mortality rate was 21. Infant mortality during the past five years is shown in the following table:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
<b>1953</b> .....	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>
1952 .....	11	21
1951 .....	7	10
1950 .....	13	21
1949 .....	21	31

**NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.**— During 1953 there were eight deaths of infants under the age of one month, which gives a mortality rate of 13 per 1,000 live births. During the past five years neo-natal deaths were as follows:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
<b>1953</b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>
1952 .....	8	15
1951 .....	4	7
1950 .....	5	8
1949 .....	11	16

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.**— For the second year in succession there were no deaths reported due to “maternal causes.” The following table gives particulars of maternal deaths for the past five years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 Total Births.</i>
<b>1953</b> .....	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>
1952 .....	Nil	Nil
1951 .....	1	1·62
1950 .....	1	1·57
1949 .....	2	2·91



# CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1953.

	<i>Causes.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, Other .....	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease .....	1	—
4.	Diphtheria .....	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections .....	2	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1	—
8.	Measles .....	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	7	8
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	12	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	9
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	20	10
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia .....	—	1
16.	Diabetes .....	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	22	22
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina .....	28	19
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	5	12
20.	Other Heart Disease .....	19	23
21.	Other Circulatory Disease .....	9	8
22.	Influenza .....	1	1
23.	Pneumonia .....	5	3
24.	Bronchitis .....	22	15
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	2
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa .....	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	5	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations .....	1	3
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	15	15
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	1
34.	All Other Accidents .....	8	7
35.	Suicide .....	2	1
36.	Homicide, and Operations of War .....	—	—
		<hr/> 194	<hr/> 169



## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

**LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—With the exception of swimming bath water all examinations are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Manchester. Samples of swimming bath water are submitted to the Clinical Research Association Ltd., London.

A total of 203 examinations was carried out during 1953, made up as follows:—

Throat Swabs .....	15
Nasal „ .....	9
Aural „ .....	3
Eye „ .....	2
Fæces .....	48
Swab from Impetigo Blister .....	1
Sputum .....	1

Milk:—

Tubercle Bacilli .....	7
Methylene Blue Reduction Test .....	40
Phosphatase Test .....	34
Turbidity .....	5
Ice-Cream .....	24

Drinking Water:—

Chemical .....	1
Bacteriological .....	1

Swimming Bath Water:—

Bacteriological .....	4
Chemical .....	4

Food:—

Danish Butter .....	1
Tinned Cream .....	3

**LOCAL LEGISLATION.**—The Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935, confers powers on the Council, additional to those found in the Public General Acts, for the improvement, health and good government of the district.

The Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1949, provides the Council with the necessary powers for the development and maintenance of the District Heating service on the Woodsend and Calderbank housing estates at Flixton. The Act also authorises the Council to make further and better provision for the improvement, health and local government of the district.

The following adoptive Acts of Parliament are in force in the district:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts III and IV).

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Part II (other than Section 31) and Part IV).

Public Health Act, 1925 (Parts II and VI).

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Byelaws made by the Council relating to the following are in force:—

Cemetery.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Transport of Food.

New Buildings.

Pleasure Fairs.

Sterilisation of Animal Feeding Meat.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Handling, Wrapping and Sale of Food.

**MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.**— There are 16 doctors resident in the district and about ten residing in neighbouring districts who practise in the area.

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**— The living conditions of a number of elderly people who are without adequate means of care are a source of anxiety, and under the provisions of this Act official action was necessary in three cases for compulsory removal to hospital or other institution.

### **SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER SUPPLY.**—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation; the quality is excellent and the quantity sufficient. Water is supplied from the public mains to all dwellinghouses with the exception of three which are supplied from wells. No liability to plumbo-solvent action has been noticed nor any evidence as to contamination by lead. One bacteriological examination and one chemical analysis were carried out during the year and the results were satisfactory in each case.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The sewage from the township of Davyhulme is received and treated at the Sewage Disposal Works of the Manchester Corporation at Davyhulme. Sewage from Urmston and Flixton is received at the Council's Sewage Works at Flixton.

A scheme has been prepared for the reconstruction of the Flixton Sewage Works. It comprises new screening chambers and an extension of the storm water tanks, four new percolating filters for double filtration and humus tanks, the latter being supplementary to the existing filter beds and humus tanks. The scheme will provide complete treatment for the whole of the development envisaged in the area served by these works.

Negotiations were commenced in early 1950 between the Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in respect of proposals to construct two new pumping stations at Carrington Road and Church Road, Flixton. Approval was received in May, 1953, and work was commenced at the Church Road project in July, 1953, and is still in progress.

#### **SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1953.**

No. of Middens .....	1
„ Closets attached to middens .....	1
„ Pail Closets .....	11
„ Dry Ashpits (excluding middens) .....	Nil
„ Movable Ashbins for Refuse .....	13,160
„ Trough Closets .....	21
„ Waste-water Closets .....	39
„ Fresh-water Closets .....	12,896

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—Refuse collection, refuse disposal, and street gully emptying are carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and street sweeping is under the control of the Surveyor. The whole of the house and trade refuse is collected by modern mechanical vehicles and removed to a tip owned by the Council in the Urmston Meadows, where it is disposed of exclusively by controlled tipping.

Street gully emptying is carried out by a specially designed motor vehicle of 750 gallons capacity.

Since October, 1951, the provision of domestic dustbins has been a rate-borne service.

**CAMPING SITES.**—There are no such sites, either military or civilian, within the Urban District.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—There are 80 factory and works chimneys in the district and during the year 34 smoke observations were taken. The time limit allowed for emission of black smoke is two minutes per half hour.



The Council is engaged with the neighbouring local authorities of Stretford, Sale, Eccles, Irlam and Bucklow in a scientific investigation in the incidence of atmospheric pollution over the combined area by new industrial undertakings. The Council is advised by and has the technical and administrative assistance of officers of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**— Situated on a site of one and a half acres the Council owns a modern indoor baths consisting of a swimming pool, slipper baths, showers and dressing halls for both sexes, committee room, offices, and cafe balcony. The pool, which is one hundred feet in length, thirty-six feet in width at each end and sixty-four feet across the centre, is of unusual design, departing from the usual rectangular shape by having a circular expansion at the centre. Its capacity is 180,000 gallons and it accommodates comfortably about one hundred and eighty bathers at any one time. The water, constantly circulating through the filters at a mean temperature of about 70 degrees Fahrenheit is chlorinated and aerated.

Eight samples of water were taken from the swimming pool and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and the results in each case showed the water to be quite safe for bathing purposes.

**DISINFESTATION.**—Twenty-six Council houses and 47 privately-owned houses were found to be vermin infested and disinfection was carried out in each case by the use of contact insecticides. In cases of serious infestation by bed bugs fumigation is carried out with hydrogen cyanide.

**SCHOOLS.**—There are 16 maintained and two private schools in the district, most of which are provided with modern type sanitary conveniences on the water-carriage system. Twenty inspections were carried out during the year. No closure of schools for epidemic illness was necessary during 1953.

**FACTORIES.**—Details of the action taken under this heading are to be found in the table on page 11.

**HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.**—There are no “common lodging houses” in the Urban District but there are 8 “houses-let-in-lodgings.”

**RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.**—At the end of the year the number of registered premises was three. Sixteen inspections were carried out and four samples of filling materials were submitted for analysis, the results in each case being satisfactory.

There are no premises licensed for the manufacture or storage of rag flock.

**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**  
**Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.**

PREMISES	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
FACTORIES without mechanical power ...	27	1	Nil	Nil
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	121	190	3	Nil
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises) ...	33	3	1	Nil
Totals ...	181	194	4	Nil

**Cases in which Defects were Found.**

Particulars	Number of Defects				
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	Occupiers Prosecuted
Want of Cleanliness (Sec: 1) ...	1	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec: 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec: 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (Sec. 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec: 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec: 7)					
Insufficient ...	1	2	—	1	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	29	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	1	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—	—
	4	34	Nil	1	Nil



## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

	<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Flats.</i>
(i) By the Council .....	116	4
(ii) By other local authorities .....	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	261	Nil

### 1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1)—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	434
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,460
(2)—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	21
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	63
(3)—Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	147
(4)—Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	287

### 2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ... ..	129
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### 3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs ...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	1
(b) By the Council in default of owners ...	3

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	71
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices:—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	75
(b) By the Council in default of owners	...					9
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

4—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	} No figures available	
(ii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...					
(iii) Number of families dwelling therein	...					
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...					10

5—HOUSING ACT, 1949-PART II-IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.:—

(a) Number of schemes submitted:

(i) By private individuals	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By the Council	...	...	...	...	Nil

**SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

**MILK SUPPLY.**—The number of distributors registered at the 31st December, 1953, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, was 46. Details of these are given below:—

Registered Distributors operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district	5
(b) Shops in the district (other than dairies)	28
(c) Premises outside the district	13

Under the Milk (Special Designation (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, the number of licences issued (including supplementary licences) was as follows:—

“Tuberculin Tested” Milk .....	23
“Accredited” Milk .....	Nil

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, were as follows:—

“Pasteurised” Milk .....	32
“Sterilised” Milk .....	38

Details of the sampling of milk are shown in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—All shops and stalls retailing, storing or preparing foodstuffs are inspected regularly and the attention of the managements of all factory canteens and food catering establishments has been drawn to the Ministry of Food publication “Clean Catering.”

Byelaws have been made under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

Under Section 115 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, any person who offers or exposes for sale in the Urban District any meat food product, fish, fruit or vegetables, must be registered by the Urban District Council as the local authority for the purpose of the Act within the Urban District. At 31st December, 1953, there were 12 registrations in force.

All persons engaged in the manufacture and sale of ice-cream are required to be registered under the provisions of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. At 31st December there were 65 registrations in force.

The Lancashire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority responsible for the sampling duties under the “adulteration” provisions of the Act of 1948. The following particulars regarding samples obtained in the district during 1953 have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:—



A total of 208 samples was obtained; of these 143 were of milk (this total includes 3 Channel Islands milk) and the 65 others comprised:—

3 beef sausage.	1 margarine.
1 malt vinegar.	1 raspberry jam.
3 table jelly.	1 currants.
2 whey cream.	5 rum.
4 fruit (canned).	1 whisky.
1 whole orange drink.	4 borax.
1 double cream.	3 cocoa.
1 custard powder.	1 sulphur tablets.
2 semolina.	1 drinking chocolate.
1 tea.	1 plain flour.
1 cornflour.	1 beef sausage meat.
1 blancmange powder.	1 plain white flour.
3 sponge cake and sponge pudding mixture, sweetened.	2 pepper (white).
2 barley.	1 essence of rennet— fruit flavoured.
1 rice.	1 pepper (black).
2 ice-cream.	1 fine egg— Vermicelli.
1 sterilised cream (canned).	1 candied peel.
1 oatmeal.	1 ground ginger.
1 soya flour.	1 pure Devon cream (canned).
1 bread.	1 National flour.
1 flour, self-raising.	
1 cod liver oil compound.	

In addition to the above, two “Appeal-to-Cow” samples were obtained during the year.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

SAMPLE.	RESULT OF ANALYSIS.	ACTION TAKEN.
1 formal milk.	Deficient 21·6% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified as “Appeal - to - Cow”; samples were also poor in fat.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 5% fat.	Vendor notified.
1 plain flour.	Total mineral water. 0·56% including total calcium (as Ca) 0·026% Creta praeparata absent.	Ministry of Food notified.
1 National flour.	Creta praeparata only 4 ounces per 280 lbs. sack. Should be 14 ounces per 280 lbs. sack.	Ministry of Food notified.

## **SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Diphtheria has been conspicuously absent from the notification figures since 1947, and there can be little doubt that the continued absence of this disease is attributable to the artificial immunisation which is carried out by general medical practitioners and at the County Council clinics and child welfare centres.

There has been no outbreak of infectious disease specially connected with any workplace or employment. No case of small-pox has occurred in the district since 1938, but it has been necessary on occasions to visit contacts of cases occurring outside the district.

Notified cases of infectious disease are visited promptly, and isolation is arranged either at the patient's home or by removal to an infectious disease hospital. School contacts are excluded for the necessary incubation period, and inquiries are made in relation to attendance at day nurseries and whether any food handlers are involved. On termination of infection, the room and its contents are thoroughly disinfected by formaldehyde gas and in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis the bedding is subjected to steam disinfection at Ladywell Hospital, Salford, by arrangement with the Salford Corporation.

Generally the health of the district throughout the year remained normal and the incidence of infectious disease was seasonal only and gave no cause for alarm. Scarlet Fever notifications declined from 72 in 1952 to 57 in 1953, Measles declined from 487 in 1952 to 397 in 1953 and Dysentery declined from 21 in 1952 to 10 in 1953.

There was an increase in the number of notifications of Whooping Cough (207 in 1953 compared with 143 in 1952), Poliomyelitis (11 in 1953 compared with 2 in 1952) and Puerperal Pyrexia (56 in 1953 compared with 32 in 1952). Regarding the latter, all the cases occurred in hospital (54 in Park Hospital and 2 in Urmston Cottage Hospital) .

The table on page 17 gives the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year.

### **DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES. —**

Eighty-one houses were disinfected by formaldehyde gas, the work being carried out by the Health Department staff.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—New cases and mortality during 1953 are shown in the table on page 18.

There was one death from Tuberculosis which had not previously been notified, a male person aged 67 years.



**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953.**  
(After confirmation or correction of diagnosis).

Disease	Total cases at all ages	YEARS								Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
		0	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever ...	57	10	2	10	33	10	2				12	
Measles ...	397	11	102	112	168	2	1	2			3	
Whooping Cough ...	207		51	- 59	84	2					8	
Acute Pneumonia ...	15				1		1	6	5	2		
Puerperal Pyrexia...	56						21	35				
Acute Poliomyelitis :												
(Paralytic) ...	8		3	2		1		2			8	
(Non Paralytic) ...	3			1	1	1					3	
Meningococcal Infection ...	2		1	1								
Dysentery ...	10	1		1	3	2	2	1			4	
Erysipelas ...	4			1				1	3			
Totals ...	760	22	159	186	290	19	27	47	8	2	38	Nil

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—								
1—								
2—								
5—				1				
10—		1						
15—		3						
20—	1	3		1				
25—	4	2						
35—	1	2						
45—	3	1	1	1				
55—	2		1		1			
65—	1				3			
75 & upwards								
	12	12	2	3	4	—		
Totals	24		5		4		Nil	

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
URMSTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Probably the most significant feature of the past year has been the re-commencement of work under the Housing Act. The extent and condition of low standard property in the area were re-assessed and a list of priorities laid down. A considerable number of dwellings capable of being rendered fit for habitation at reasonable expense are being dealt with under the provisions of section 9 of the Act.

The problem of atmospheric pollution was again given close attention and every effort made by the department to limit the outpourings of smoke and the vitiation of air by noxious gases.

The refuse collection and disposal work was badly handicapped by the labour shortage, and until it is possible to attract and recruit the right type of workmen, there is little hope of reaching that level of efficiency and service attained prior to 1938.

Again I am indebted to every member of the staff for the help and consideration I have received in the past year, to Dr. Walker for his kindly guidance, and to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their unwavering support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**WILLIAM WOOD,**

*Chief Sanitary Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.*

## COMPLAINTS.

Total number of complaints investigated .....	676
Total number of complaints confirmed .....	591
Total number of visits (including re-visits) .....	1,620

<i>Nature of Complaint.</i>	<i>Number Received.</i>	<i>Confirmed.</i>
Accumulations .....	20	15
Animals So-Kept .....	15	8
Atmospheric Pollution .....	12	10
Dirty Premises .....	8	5
Flooding .....	13	13
Housing Defects .....	195	186
Obstructed Drains .....	110	104
Overcrowding .....	—	—
Rats and Mice .....	131	99
Other Vermin .....	81	78
Miscellaneous .....	91	73
	<hr/> 676 <hr/>	<hr/> 591 <hr/>

## ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, ETC.

The following notices were served during the year:—

*Informal.*  
293

*Statutory.*  
163

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

*Housing Acts, 1936-1949.*

Section 168.

Proceedings were instituted during the year against an owner of a dwelling who failed to give required information regarding ownership. The Court found for the Local Authority and fined the defendant £2.

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

Accumulations .....	99
Animals kept as to be a nuisance, etc. ....	73
Council House Applications .....	25
Council House Inspections .....	14
Drainage Work (New Buildings) .....	302
Drainage Work (Existing Buildings) .....	464
Dwellinghouses—re complaints .....	1,341
„ —re Overcrowding .....	7
„ —re Infectious Disease .....	135
„ —re Dirty or Verminous .....	15
„ —re Housing Acts .....	1,003
Dairies .....	28
Hairdressers and Barbers .....	6
Hawkers .....	31
Factories (Mechanical, Non-Mechanical), Out- Workers' Work Places .....	266
Food Premises .....	403
Houses-Let-in-Lodgings .....	1
Ice-Cream Premises .....	23
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc. ....	172
Market, Food Stalls, Fairs, etc. ....	24
Marine Store Dealers .....	12
Mortuary .....	12
Offensive Trades .....	14
Petroleum .....	59
Public Houses and Cinemas .....	2
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip .....	323
„ „ —Other Visits .....	333
Public Conveniences .....	120
Rodent Control .....	89
Rag Flock .....	16
Shops .....	153
Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution .....	152
Swimming Bath .....	11
Schools .....	20
Miscellaneous .....	483
Total .....	6,231



## HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1949.

Preparatory work was completed for a further effort to finally remove all dwelling houses classified as totally unfit for human habitation. The houses in this list are limited and there should be no difficulty in completing the programme within the 3 year period agreed upon.

During the year 11 dwellings were demolished following undertakings or agreements with the owners, but it was only necessary to provide 3 new houses for displaced families in respect of the foregoing.

Two houses included in a pre-war clearance area were demolished—no persons were displaced.

Activity under the repair sections increased considerably, 21 unfit houses were dealt with, either formally or informally, and of these 5 were the subject of extensive repair notices under section 9, the remainder were to be re-conditioned to a comprehensive specification prepared by the department following protracted negotiations with the owners.

One formal undertaking was given by an owner following the service of a "Time and Place" notice under section 11, and 3 dwelling houses were rendered fit for habitation by the Council following the default of the owners on section 9 notices.

One case of statutory overcrowding came to the notice of the department during the year, which was abated before the service of a statutory notice. Other instances of congested living conditions were dealt with by co-operation with the Housing Department in the adjustment of the "Points scheme" of house allocation.

It is perhaps again necessary to draw attention to the difficulty in obtaining the repair of rented houses, particularly if the re-conditioning is extensive, for small owners with fixed incomes are having more and more difficulty in keeping pace with ever-increasing building costs.

The table that follows indicates briefly the department's activities under this head during the past year.

*Housing Defects (Detailed Analysis).*

<i>Description</i>	<i>Outstanding 1952</i>	<i>Recorded</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding 1953</i>
Ceiling				
Plastering .....	30	61	45	46
Dampness .....	72	102	134	40
Eavesgutters, R.W.P.'s, etc....	94	160	147	107
Fireplaces,				
Grates, etc. ...	19	42	47	14
Floors .....	43	48	66	25
Roofs .....	80	139	137	82
Sinks, Lavatory				
Basins, etc. ...	12	17	20	9
Walls				
(Pointing, etc.)	49	141	92	98
Wall Plastering ...	49	110	76	83
W.C. Soil Pipes, etc. ....	13	22	21	14
Windows, Sash- cords, etc. ...	76	192	124	144
Woodwork .....	41	67	64	44
Yards, Paths ...	11	67	43	35
Miscellaneous ...	59	135	90	104
	<hr/> 648	<hr/> 1,303	<hr/> 1,106	<hr/> 845

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Food Sampling.

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the area, but it is the wish of the Urmston Council, and they have in fact resolved, to take over these powers at the earliest opportunity.

In co-operation with the County Health Authority, every food of major significance was sampled during 1953, the details of which are included in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

### Food Factory.

A private company carries on the business of food preparation commercially; their trade includes meat, soup and vegetable canning, the manufacture of puddings, etc. An inspector is regularly engaged at the factory supervising production. The Medical Officer of Health issued 27 official certificates in respect of overseas consignments shipped by this firm in 1953.

The following table shows the amount of meat dealt with by the Department at the factory concerned:—

<i>Type</i>		<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Beef.</i>					
Hindquarters	.....	6,650			
		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Boneless	.....	9	13	1	14
Kidneys	.....	4	6	—	6

### Byelaws.

The Council has adopted byelaws in respect of the handling, wrapping and sale of food. These byelaws were based on the Ministry of Food model, but were extended to embrace certain other matters previously dealt with by Private Act provisions.

### Food Hawkers.

Under the provisions of the Lancashire County (General Powers) Act, 1938, 12 hawkers of foodstuffs and 6 hawkers' storage premises are registered with the Council. Supervision of persons and premises was regularly carried out.

### Slaughterhouses.

Two slaughterhouses were in use in the district before the war, one registered and one continuously licensed. Neither is in operation at present, but an informal approach has been made to the Council with a view to the modernisation and re-opening of one of these establishments.

### Education.

Every effort was made by the Health Department staff, by lectures to local organisations, informal talks with tradesmen and propaganda aimed at the general public, to raise the general standard of hygiene in all food establishments. A considerable measure of success was attained.

### Inspection of Meat and Foods.

All foodstuffs exposed for sale were under constant surveillance, and the following table gives details of voluntary surrenders during the year.

<i>Nature.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Quantities.</i>		<i>Lbs.</i>
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	
Bacon, Ham, etc. ....			2	1
Butchers' Meat ....		3	1	16
Butter and Cheese ....			1	2½
Dried Fruit ....			2	17½
Flour ....				2
Rice ....				3
Rabbit ....				1
Salt ....				1
Sugar ....				2
Sausage Meat ....		5		24¾
		—	—	—
		10	0	14¾
		—	—	—
Chocolate Cakes .....				21
Cheese .....				369 pkts.
Coffee .....				1 tin
Fruit .....				297 tins
Fish .....				23 tins
Jam and Marmalade .....				7 tins
Meat Products .....				133 tins
Milk .....				276 tins
Quaker Oats .....				1 pkt.
Pickles .....				1 jar
Sauce .....				1 jar
Soups .....				3 tins
Vegetables .....				72 tins



**Food Premises.**

There are 243 food premises in the area whose proprietors are engaged in the production, storing or retailing of food and of these 34 are registered under section 87 of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. These include 15 fish fryers and 19 premises for the manufacture of sausages and cooked meat.

The general standard of establishments in the area is excellent, in only 16 instances was it necessary to draw attention to shortcomings in respect of food hygiene or unsatisfactory premises.

**FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 13.  
FOOD PREMISES.**

Provisions of Section 13		Out-standing 1952	Re-corded	Re-medied	Out-standing 1953
(a)	Sanitary convenience, etc., communicating directly with room ... ..	3	1	2	2
(b)	Water cistern: drain vent or inlet of drain ... ..	—	2	1	1
(c)	Defective structure ... ..	22	36	28	30
(d)	Painting, cleansing of walls, ceilings, etc. ... ..	55	54	47	62
(e)	Room used as sleeping place or no intervening ventilated space..	—	—	—	—
(f)	Insufficient ventilation... ..	10	6	9	7
(g)	Accumulation of refuse ... ..	13	7	12	8
(h)	Cleanliness of personnel, room and apparatus ... ..	18	25	29	14
(i)	Washing facilities ... ..	14	2	13	3
	Hot water ... ..	8	5	9	4
		143	138	150	131

**Milk Control.**

It is proposed that the district will be a specified area for purposes of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950 in the new year, and in view of this, steps were taken to ensure that all milk retailed in the district from the 1st January, 1954, would be designated and no difficulty was experienced in this direction.

Routine sampling of milk was again satisfactorily carried out as the following table indicates:—

BIOLOGICAL (T.B.)			METHYLENE BLUE			PHOSPHATASE			TURBIDITY		
No.	Pos.	Neg.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.
7	—	7	40	37	3	34	34	—	5	5	—



**Ice-Cream.**

The manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream was rigidly controlled and a high standard of general and personal hygiene insisted upon for all persons throughout the industry.

The results of samples taken during the year are shown below :—

No. OF SAMPLES	METHYLENE BLUE Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
24	20	4	—	—

**FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**

Considerable time and effort has been expended in the last two years by Inspectors of the department in order that the factories in the district may be brought up to the high standard required by modern practice. Sanitation and hygiene is now sufficient in all cases for purposes of the Act.

All the work necessary has been carried out without recourse to statutory action. Factory owners again proved to be most co-operative. Details of the department's activities under this head are included in the appropriate table in the Medical Officer's report.

Regular inspections were made of Out-Workers' premises and conditions generally can be regarded as satisfactory. One case of infectious disease occurred in a dwelling where home-work was carried on.

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The following trades are on the register of the Department :—

Soap Boilers .....	2
Gut Scraper .....	1

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**

It would indeed be pleasant to be able to report that the atmosphere in the North Western region was free from industrial pollution, or that even an appreciable improvement had been recorded. Such, however, is not the case, for with constantly increasing industrial activity the vitiation of the atmosphere continues and short of radical alteration in policy will tend to increase. Some regionalisation of control is a step which will undoubtedly have to be taken before real progress can be made.

During the year a number of large scale modifications have been made to boiler plant in the Trafford Park area and in some instances it is proposed to provide entirely new steam raising plant to the satisfaction of the department. Another development which will be to the undoubted advantage of the North Western area was the appointment of an additional Alkali Inspector for this region.

Observations, inspections and visits made during the year in connection with atmospheric pollution numbered 152.

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

During the year 135 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with cases of infectious disease.

#### **DISINFESTATION.**

There has been a slight increase in the number of vermin-infested houses in the district. In all, 73 houses and 4 other premises were satisfactorily treated by the application of contact insecticides.

#### **MORTUARY.**

The Flixton mortuary maintained by the Department was in use 14 times during the year, and I am indebted to the County Police for the following details:—

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Natural Causes .....	9
Open Verdict .....	1
Accidental .....	3
Suicide .....	1

#### **STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT.**

The number of spirit licences issued for 1953 was 72 covering 1,521,410 gallons of petrol or petrol derivatives, and in addition 5 licences were issued to cover 7,740 tons of calcium carbide. The licence fees received totalled £85 0s. 10d.

The major developments in the Trafford Park area in relation to the storage of petroleum spirit continued and three large scale installations are being considerably extended.

#### **SHOPS ACT, 1950.**

With the greater freedom that shop-keepers now enjoy and the availability of consumer goods, competition has become somewhat keener resulting in more minor infringements of the Statute re closing hours being brought to the notice of the department. On no occasion was it felt necessary to deal with these infringements other than by informal action.

### **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.**

The Council are negotiating for the acquisition of three plots of land in the industrial area for the provision of additional public conveniences. It is hoped that the first of these will be erected and put into use during the forthcoming year.

Existing Public Conveniences maintained by the Department are as under:—

<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Males.</i>					<i>Females.</i>
Station Road .....	2	W.C.'s,	6	urinal	stalls	3 W.C.'s
Davyhulme Circle ...	2	„	3	„	„	3 „
Moorside Road .....	1	„	1	„	„	2 „
Church Road .....	2	„	3	„	„	3 „

### **MARINE STORE DEALERS.**

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, was adopted by the Council during the year and the following Dealers were registered:—

Marine Store Dealers .....	3
Dealer in Old Metal .....	1

### **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. RODENT CONTROL.**

Total inspections and treatments of premises increased again over the period under review and a decrease in the number of major rat infestations was again evident; however, the minor infestations showed an increase over last year.

New methods of treatment recommended and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have proved their worth.

The sewers, sewage works and refuse tip have been systematically treated with the result that infestations have been kept at a low level.



	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business & industrial)	Total
Number of Properties inspected ...	30	95	14	110	249
Number of Rat infestations :					
Major ...	3	—	2	5	10
Minor ...	15	25	8	44	92
Number of properties <b>seriously</b> infested with mice	5	26	—	33	64
Total infested properties treated by Local Authority	27	52	10	84	173
Poisons used	Zinc Phosphide ...   ...   ...   5 lbs. 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. Arsenic   ...   ...   ...   2 lbs. 14 ozs. Warfarin   ...   ...   ...   5 lbs. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.				
Bait used	Sausage Rusk   ...   ...   4 cwts. 3 qr. 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Bread Mash   ...   ...   1 qrs. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Medium Oat-meal   ...   1 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lbs.				

### RAG FLOCK (AND OTHER FILLING MATERIAL) ACT, 1951.

There are 3 factories in the area registered for purposes of the Act, and in each case inspection is a routine. The following table shows results of examinations of samples of filling material obtained in the past year.

Ref.	Filling Material	Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory
RF/1/53	Curled Wool Flock	Satisfactory
RF/2/53	Cotton Felt	Satisfactory
RF/3/53	Rag Flock	Satisfactory
RF/4/53	Teased New Coir Fibre	Satisfactory



## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

**Labour Situation.**—It is regrettable that it is again necessary to comment on the serious labour difficulties which confronted most Cleansing Departments throughout the year. In Urmston the problem was probably more acute than that affecting the majority of towns, primarily because of the availability of financially attractive work in Trafford Park area. On more than one occasion in the year, the refuse collection and disposal arrangements seemed on the point of collapse due solely to the lack of sufficient man-power—service was only kept in being by constant re-organisation.

**Transport.**—Generally, the department's motor transport functioned efficiently throughout the year but with the increase in house building, re-organisation of collection rounds will shortly have to be given consideration and the possible augmentation of the existing fleet.

The S.D. Gully Emptier, purchased in 1937, is rapidly nearing the end of its economic life, and although every effort is being made by the Mechanical Engineer to maintain the vehicle in operation, a replacement will be inevitable in the near future.

Transport at present in service is as follows:—

One SD Gully Emptier .....	1937
Two Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loaders .....	1946
One Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loader .....	1948
One SD 24½ cubic yards rear-loader .....	1949
One Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loader .....	1949
One Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loader .....	1951
One Austin Luton-type van .....	1953

**Frequency of Collection.**—Every endeavour has been made in the period under review to restore the weekly collection of house refuse, but to-date this has been impossible because of the difficulties already outlined. Bins were serviced at 8-10 day intervals.

**General.**—The number of bins in use in the district is 13,159. In addition there are 11 pail closets, one privy midden and 7,927 street gullies. The latter were cleansed regularly during the year.

The total weight of domestic refuse collected was 11,220 tons, and the weight of refuse of all types disposed of at the Meadow Road Tip was 15,709 tons.

**Dustbin Replacement Scheme.**— The replacement of household dustbins as a rate-borne service has continued throughout the year, a total of some 2,967 receptacles having been provided since the inception of the scheme in October, 1950. Bins were largely of 3¼ cubic feet capacity and of B.S.S. specification. The cost of this service in terms of a penny rate was 1·012 and represented the supply or replacement of 958 bins.

**Cleansing Costs.**— The following table shows the comparative cost of this service for the year 1952-53:—

REFUSE COLLECTION, 1952-53.

Item	PARTICULARS	Collection	Disposal	Total
		£	£	£
1	REVENUE ACCOUNT GROSS EXPENDITURE—			
	(i) Labour ... ..	8739	1220	9959
	(ii) Transport ... ..	6082	17	6099
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings ... ..	137	338	475
	(iv) Other items ... ..	470	66	536
	(v) Total gross expenditure	15,428	1641	17,069
2	GROSS INCOME ... ..	801	4884	5685
3	NET COST ... ..	14,627	Cr. 3243	11,384
4	Capital expenditure met from Revenue (included above) ...	—	—	—
	UNIT COSTS	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only...	15 4	1 6	16 10
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only ... ..	10 8	—	10 8
7	Net cost (all expenditure) ...	25 9	Cr. 4 0	21 9
8	Net cost per 1000 population ...	£378	Cr. £84	£294
9	Net cost per 1000 premises ...	£1194	Cr. £265	£929

**Salvage.**— For the first time since the end of the war some degree of stability seems to have been achieved in this section of the Cleansing Department's activities. Not only did it appear that the supply and demand in relation to waste paper had become stabilised but what was probably more important, particularly in relation to the department's estimates, there was no violent fluctuations in price levels. Employees now seem to be taking a much greater interest in the work since the inauguration of an incentive payment, the award of which is dependent on the sale of a minimum tonnage of waste paper and textiles, together with basic output of work on refuse collection.

Because of general local disquiet and in some cases violent objection to the communal containers sited throughout the district for the reception of kitchen waste, the Health Committee is reconsidering its policy with regard to the undertaking. It may well be that with a relaxation of control the Council will decide to abandon these collections in the near future.

Total income for the period ending 31st December, amounted to £4,593 with a surplus income over expenditure of £1,568 0s. 0d.

The following table and graph show in detail the district's salvage effort over the past 14 years:—

SALVAGE RESULTS, 1940-1954

Year Ending	WASTE PAPER		KITCHEN WASTE		TEXTILES		METALS		BOTTLES, JARS, CULL ET, ETC.		MISCEL- LANEOUS		TOTALS	
	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £
31st March														
1940	59	194	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	194
1941	357	1469	87	128	14	72	62	223	49	121	—	34	580	2047
1942	450	2024	317	478	20	169	54	184	33	88	—	54	889	2997
1943	481	3066	411	633	34	441	215	399	31	85	—	114	1195	4738
1944	424	2790	352	551	27	372	100	241	27	78	—	121	948	4153
1945	352	2285	306	494	29	454	86	224	22	68	—	112	812	3637
1946	312	2116	263	425	33	341	49	137	18	51	—	58	683	3128
1947	345	2268	286	472	23	261	48	143	32	167	—	61	741	3372
1948	362	2409	326	527	18	209	31	99	16	75	—	27	757	3346
1949	430	2885	324	522	21	241	37	135	22	107	—	30	838	3920
1950	471	2876	366	934	19	229	10	69	7	37	—	32	878	4177
1951	437	3193	305	838	14	228	27	119	3	15	—	23	789	4416
1952	495	8005	252	745	16	538	25	197	—	—	—	22	791	9507
1953	480	4052	215	718	21	397	42	258	—	—	—	18	760	5443
Totals {	5455	—	3810	—	289	—	786	—	260	—	120	—	10720	—
		£39,632		£7,465		£3,952		£2,428		£892		£706		£55,075
									Add Salvage Collection Allowances, 1949-50				...	1294
														£56,369









